

Message Text

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21

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R 081557Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 602

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7627

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, NI, PBOR, PGOV

SUBJ: COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF NEW STATES

1. AS PROMISED IN BRIGADIER MUHAMMAD'S JULY 30 BROADCAST, FMG YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED PANEL TO LOOK INTO ISSUE OF CREATION OF MORE STATES. SMC EMPOWERS COMMITTEE:

(A) EXAMINE QUESTION CREATION MORE STATES, AND, SHOULD IT FIND CREATION NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE, ADVISE ON THEIR DELIMITATION, ECONOMIC VIABILITY, LOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITALS, AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS SO THAT FMG DECISIONS "WILL ENSURE A BALANCED AND STABLE FEDERATION."

(B) RECEIVE AND EXAMINE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS "WHO MAY HAVE VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OR OTHERWISE OF CREATING STATES IN PARTICULAR AREAS." COMMITTEE IS TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS NLT DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

2. THE FIVE PANEL MEMBERS, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 7, ARE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE AYO GABRIEL IRIKEFE - CHAIRMAN; DR. ALI DANLAMI YAHAYA, LECTURER IN GOVERNMENT, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY; MR. S. D. LAR, A JOS LEGAL PRACTITIONER; BRIGADIER GODWIN ALLY, FORMER COMMANDER OF LAGOS GARRISON ORGANIZATION; AND MR. C.O. AUDIFFEREN, MAP REPRODUCTION OFFICER WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS. SECRETARY TO PANEL IS DR. PATRICK D. COLE, UNDER SECRETARY IN FEDERAL CABINET OFFICE.

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3. JUSTICE IRIKEFE IS AN URHOB0 FROM THE MID-WEST, WHERE

TRIBAL AGITATION FOR "DELTA STATE," "ITSEKIRI AUTONOMOUS REGION," ETC. HAS BEEN BRISK. HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF ONE OF CHIEF ARBITERS OF THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. THE 53-YEAR-OLD IRIKEFE IS NO STRANGER TO DIFFICULT DECISION-MAKING, HOWEVER. FROM 1970 TO 72 HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MIDWEST ROBBERY AND FIREARMS TRIBUNAL, HANDLING MANY TOUGH ARMED ROBBERY CASES; IN 1965 HE WAS CHIEF COUNSEL OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO OWEGBE CULTS - ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED ATROCITIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY BANNED AS "DANGEROUS TO THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA."

4. ALI DANLAMI YAHAYA, 33-YEAR-OLD LECTURER FROM KANO, WROTE MA THESIS ENTITLED "NIGERIAN POLITICS 1960 TO 65 - FAILURE OF SYSTEM MAINTENANCE." AMCONSUL KADUNA NOMINATED HIM AS ALTERNATE TO 1970 SMITHSONIAN SYMPOSIUM.

5. C. O. AUDIFFEREN WOULD APPEAR MINISTRY OF WORKS TECHNOCRAT WHOSE SKILLS ESSENTIAL TO DELINEATING BOUNDARIES OF NEW STATES. PERHAPS WORTH NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT FORMER DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS, S. B. AUDIFFEREN (RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN) WAS DISMISSED IN 1971 FOR CORRUPTION FOLLOWING SENSATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF HIS HANDLING OF APAPA ROAD PROJECT.

6. COLE (1975 LAGOS PLBRL), FROM ABONNEMA, IN RIVERS STATE (ANOTHER HOTBED OF STATE AGITATION) SEEMS EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR COMMITTEE SECRETARY, AS HE WAS DETAILED BY GENERAL GOWON STUDY POSSIBLE CIVILIAN CONSTITUTIONS AND IS EXPERT ON NIGERIAN FEDERALISM.

7. LAR UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY LAGOS, ANY BIOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTIONS KADUNA MIGHT MAKE WOULD BE WELCOME.

COMMENT: NEW FMG CONTINUES RAPID DECISIVE PACE, NAMING NEW SMC AND GOVERNORS JULY 30, NEW FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) AUGUST 6, AND COMMITTEE ON NEW STATES AUGUST 7. BRIGADIER GODWIN ALLY, UNTIL YESTERDAY CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM NEW POSTINGS, AT LAST HAS JOB, BUT ALLY, PERHAPS THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST PROFESSIONAL OF NIGERIAN BRIGADIERS, ACCUSTOMED TO EXERCISING TROOP COMMAND AND OTHER WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITIES, CAN SCARCELY BE PLEASED WITH THIS SCRAP FROM NEW SMC'S TABLE. APPOINTMENT SEEMS CONFIRM THAT IN PLOTTING AND PERPETRATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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JULY 29 COUP ALLY WAS ODD MAN OUT.
CROSBY

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NNN

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